



AVIATION BRIGADE SOLDIERS PREPARE FOR DESERT DEPLOYMENT



The 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade conducts dismounted lane training, supported by the NY PTAE, during their pre-mobilization in Ft. Drum, NY, on Aug. 21, 2013.



NY Army National Guard photos by
SPC Harley Jelis

LATHAM, N.Y. - New York Army National Guard Lt. Col. Kevin Ferreira, executive officer of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade, speaks with Albany area news media during the departure of ten aircrews of the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation for deployment Sep. 25 here from the National Guard Army Aviation Flight Facility. The ten aircraft deployed to Fort Hood, Texas, are part of the mobilization of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade, scheduled for a Kuwait deployment at the end of the year. The unit will serve one year on active duty, with about nine months in Kuwait. Ferreira, from Schenectady, N.Y., will lead the brigade staff and support the command of more than 1,200 aviation Soldiers from multiple state National Guards and active component forces to support operations in Kuwait.



REVEILLE

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CAMPAIGNS

World War I: Lorraine-Champagne-Aisne-Marne-St. Mihiel-Meuse Argonne
World War II: Central Europe-Rhineland-Alsace-Ardenne.
War on Terrorism: Operation Noble Eagle - Operation Iraqi Freedom -
Operation Enduring Freedom



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE Happy Holidays to all. As we come to the end of 2013 we can point to many accomplishments and to more transition moments in the history of the RDVF.

On the transition side our annual reunion and conference as we now call it was very successful. While we only had a handful of WWII veterans we are becoming very well known to our new era veterans and all those serving in the 42nd Division today. Membership is up! We presented at the Division Commanders' meeting and passed out literature on the RDVF's history and purpose. We had a great turnout for our banquet (close to 150) with many new faces in attendance. We will be hosting a cocktail party for the Division in Kansas City November 17th as another gesture of support. Our vision of a mutually supporting relationship between the RDVF and the 42nd Division has taken root! We have added new board members, elected a new Vice President and appointed a new Historian. Many good people willing to give their time to further the RDVF mission.

On the accomplishment side, we have rebranded ourselves as you can see by our new logo and sold a lot of new shirts, hats and pins. These items are for sale on our website; please check out the store as well as other areas on the website. Our editions of the Reveille are posted online 5 times a year. With regard to memorials, we voted to move the Meurcy Farm Plaque (a WWI memorial) to the Rouge Farm Memorial site (another WWI memorial) in Fère-en-Tardenois France. Road signs are posted in the area leading travelers to the 42nd Infantry Division Memorial site. In May 2014, we will celebrate and unveil new memorials at Fort Drum and Fort Dix upon the 10th anniversary of the mobilization of the 42nd Division for the Iraq war. Just as there is a memorial in Garden City, NY for WWI vets and at Camp Gruber, OK for WWII vets, we will have something to honor this mobilization and deployment of 42nd soldiers. Finally, we are developing new investment strategies as well as fundraising events to bring in additional revenues. While we operate from a substantial endowment it is necessary to continue to grow our funds as we want to grow our scholarship and new family support programs.

Susan and I wish everyone a safe, healthy and joyous holiday season.

Rainbow Never Forget! Joe Taluto, RDVF Chairman



The ten aircraft deployed to Fort Hood, Texas, as part of the mobilization of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade, are scheduled for a Kuwait deployment at the end of the year. The unit will serve one year on active duty, with about nine months in Kuwait. Above three U.S. Army NG photos by Col. Richard Goldenberg, 42nd Div PAO

LATHAM, N.Y. - New York Army National Guard Warrant Officer Chad Foster, from Clifton Park, N.Y., points out the aircraft to his son and daughter during the departure of aircrews of the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation for deployment Sep. 25 here from the National Guard Army Aviation Flight Facility. Foster deployed with a subsequent lift of aircraft.



Deadline for the January 2014 issue is 15 December 2013

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EVERLASTING FATHER in this changing world, give us a steadfast faith amidst the storms and stresses of life. Give us the unfailing assurance that Thou livest and art working out Thy loving purpose. Strengthen us to do our daily work in quietness and confidence, fearing no tomorrow, nor the evil that it brings. For we know that Thou art with us. **AMEN**

Chaplain Arthur G. Knehr WWI Rainbow HQ Co. 149th Machine Gun Battalion, 42nd Division

First printed November-December 1970 issue of The Rainbow Reveille

LINDLEY PUGH's DACHAU COMMEMORATION SPEECH

The eighth in a series of speeches from 42nd Division WWII veterans requested by the "Friends of Former Dachau Prisoners" (FFDP), The Netherlands and coordinated by FFDP representative, Mr. Jaap Mesdag and Frank Burns, President, Pacific NW Chapter of the RDVF. Our shared project is continuing. Please contact **Frank Burns** for further information: (206) 527-0987 frankdorothyburns@gmail.com This speech is under copyright to the FFDP and will be published on their website and the Rainbow Facebook Page in the near future. **All photos have been sent by Dana Clerkin, daughter of Lindley Pugh.**



My name is Lindley Pugh and I served in the Medical Detachment of the 222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Rainbow Division.....It was the 1940's and every young man knew he was going for an examination to see if he was fit for military service. I was a student in high school and when I graduated, I volunteered to move up my number in the conscription. I joined the Rainbow Division as it was formed in 1943 at the request of veterans of the Rainbow Division of WWI who felt that the Division should be active in helping to achieve victory in WWII. General MacArthur was the assistant division commander of the original Rainbow Division in WWI. The conception of the 42nd Rainbow Division was that it should contain soldiers from every state in the union. I was in the contingent from Wisconsin. When I went to Camp Gruber I knew I was to be part of the Rainbow Division. I was at Camp Gruber when I was selected to be a medic, even though I had no previous medical training. After our training we embarked for Europe where we joined the 7th Army under General Patch in Southern France. We entered the battle to reclaim Europe at Strasbourg, subsequently crossing the Rhine, capturing Schweinfurt, and Nuremberg. **I was a member of the medical detachment of the 222nd infantry regiment which opened the gates of Dachau in April of 1945.** My memories are exactly the way that photographs and movies depict the concentration camps. It was cold, gray with a bunch of barracks, built out of wood and sheet metal, and with guard towers completely encircling the compound. As the regiment thrust forward into this sea of horror, the riflemen went about capturing the German troops – mainly Waffen SS soldiers who were stationed at the camp. Not all of the Germans were SS troopers – they were the “elite” soldiers. The Germans either ran or just stood around and surrounded their rifles. Then the riflemen went about freeing the thousands of prisoners of Dachau. **My most immediate and vivid memory of Dachau was the sight of a long freight train at a rail siding just outside the prison.** There were almost 100 boxcars filled with human beings. The medics from our headquarters detachment went with our battalion commander and regimental commanders to make a determination of what this train was. They said to us, “You guys come along with us to see what this thing is.” It had pulled in a day or two before. The bodies were just there – stacked up on top of one another with a tangle of arms, legs and blood everywhere. To our horror we found that all but two of the hundreds of people jammed into these boxcars were dead. Only two people were found alive. Our officers labeled it “The train of death.” To the best of our immediate knowledge, the train had been in route from somewhere in Northern Germany transporting prisoners from other camps that were to be interred at Dachau. **As this was nearing the end of the war, the train had taken several days from the start of its journey to the gates of Dachau and these people on this train died from suffocation, starvation and freezing as it was still winter.**

It was a horrible, bad experience. I only spent the better part of a day as our troops were rounding up the prisoners and then the headquarters battalion medics were ordered to move on. There were about 35 or 40 in the headquarters medical detachment. Our officers said, “We’ve got to get out of here now.” Soon after, back-up forces, medical companies, military police and intelligence groups came in behind us, close on our heels, to assist the inmates. I didn’t really come in touch with the prisoners of Dachau – the back-up troops took care of them. We were still in pursuit of German troops as we made our way to Munich, Salzburg, Austria and Southern Germany. The war ended less than a month later from when I was in Dachau. As an individual, I didn’t have time to dwell on the horror of this place because we were still fighting the war. Many of us were so young and not able to comprehend there were such camps or places of death. We had little or no knowledge of the horror of these camps. Dachau was one of the worst along with Buchenwald in Northern Poland. I did the best I could to erase Dachau from my memory. **I served the next 6-8 months in the Rainbow Division as General Mark Clark’s honor guard as he served as military governor of Vienna.**

I returned to the U.S. in early 1946 and really felt no need to dwell on my experiences until my children and grandchildren grew older. I came home from the war in early 1946 and went to college. I got married and graduated from the George Washington University in 1950. I raised



three children along with my wife, had a career in sales and marketing and retired almost twenty years ago. While my heritage is German, Welsh and English, I can't say I was overwhelmed" with my German heritage. My German grandparents came over to the U.S. in the 1870's and I don't know what their thoughts were about what was happening in Germany. What I couldn't comprehend was how the Germans could do these atrocities to their fellow Germans. I made an effort to take my children and grandchildren to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC since we live in the nearby suburbs of Reston, Virginia. I wanted to impress upon them the evils of Nazi Germany. **I have talked to my grandchildren's history classes and have worked with the Holocaust Museum in its campaign to "Rescue the Evidence" from WWII veterans and prisoners.** I have donated some of my memorabilia and books to the museum so others can learn. It is so important to teach future generations about the evil and horror of the concentration camps so that it doesn't happen again – EVER. As I reflect on my WWII experiences through the years and think about the many conflicts taking place in the world today, it is difficult to put them in the perspective of a WORLD WAR – a war in which we were trying to stop the world from becoming engulfed in a dictatorial race. That is something you don't think about when you are an 18 or 19 year old.



October 3, 2013 - From Dana Clerkin, daughter of Lindley Pugh –

One thought, specifically, stands out and that is when I visited Dachau last October. This is part of the eulogy I gave at his memorial service at Arlington National Cemetery in February - I have attached the whole speech in case you would like to know a little more about the kind of man my dad was. But here are my thoughts on Dachau:

Sandy, Paul and I grew up in a house of readers. Mom and Dad had more magazines, books and newspapers around the house than any of my

friends. Dad especially loved his history books. He majored in history at George Washington and made history during World War II when he was among the troops that liberated the Dachau Concentration Camp. He never could understand why I had such a difficult time studying history in school. I liked math and, therefore, history never made sense to me until Dad started to share his personal history with me. He never talked about his WWII experience until the Holocaust Museum was built – and then the floodgates opened. Thankfully he shared his knowledge and experiences with his grandchildren by talking to their history classes at school and showing them his memorabilia from his days in France, Germany and Austria. I spent a lot of time capturing his memories - and I connected him with the Holocaust Museum Library where he donated his unique WWII books and photos – some that this museum had never seen or heard of before. I sat in while the historian interviewed Dad and listened as he shared even more untold stories with her. After I said good-bye to my Dad in October, I traveled to Munich with Pat to visit his sister Peggy, but also so I could visit Dachau and see for myself the place that played such a significant role in my Dad's life. I was so nervous riding the bus to the camp because I felt such a deep connection with my Dad and what he shared with me. As I stepped off the bus, I literally felt his presence with me on the grounds outside the actual camp. It was an overwhelming, palpable feeling that is hard to describe. The thought that I was walking on the same land where my father had been 70 years ago was incredible. I knew he was there with me. But the strangest thing was, after I walked through the gate...that feeling that Dad was with me -vanished. See, my Dad never went into the camp through the gates – and he didn't that day with me either. So I believed without a doubt, that we were there together back in October where he had been so many years before. I will hold onto and cherish that feeling forever.

In English, French and German, this plaque, placed by the Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation Inc., at KZ Dachau reads:



"IN HONOR OF 42ND RAINBOW DIVISION AND OTHER U.S. 7TH ARMY LIBERATORS OF DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP APRIL 29, 1945 AND IN EVERLASTING MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF NAZI BARBARISM, THIS TABLET IS DEDICATED MAY 3, 1992"

Annual Rainbow Division Veterans Reunion Albany, NY September 2013

By Major Ben Tupper, 42nd ID PAO

ALBANY, N.Y. --- Veterans from wars current and past gathered here to share their stories of service and camaraderie in the 42nd Infantry Division, better known by its moniker of the "Rainbow Division". The Division's nickname comes from its origins as a World War I unit whose members were drawn from coast to coast, spreading across the country, in the words of then Major Douglas MacArthur, "like a Rainbow".

Sadly, there are no remaining living members from the World War I ranks of the division, but a few hearty and dedicated members from the World War II generation of Rainbow Soldiers still make the annual trek to reunite with their brothers in arms. 2013 marked the 94th annual reunion hosted by the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation (RDVF), a reunion which saw in many ways the changing of the guard from the World War II veterans to the 42nd veterans of the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition to hours spent sharing stories and catching up on life after war at the Albany Hilton Hotel, attendees were treated to tours of Albany's monuments and museums from the 5th to the 8th of this month.

These reunions traditionally have been attended by World War II veterans and their families, but seeing as many are nearing, or have entered their ninth decade of life, travelling has become more challenging. As a result, only six World War II vets made it to the reunion. But this reduced presence did not dampen the spirits of the reunion, as 42nd veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan join the ranks of the RDVF, and keep the annual tradition alive and well. A special reception was held for veterans who composed Task Force Liberty in Iraq.

This Task Force Liberty reception marked the second official gathering of Iraq war veterans, and offered a great moment for vets from World War II and Iraq to share stories of their service in the Rainbow Division.



From left to right -

Former 42nd Division Commander, MG Tom Kinley, WWII veteran Bill Lahmann – Btry A 542nd Field Artillery, WWII veteran James R. "Pete" Pettus – Co. K 232nd Infantry Regiment, Current 42nd Division Commander, MG Harry Miller, WWII veteran Harold Melinek- 42nd Quartermaster Company; Former 42nd Division Commander, MG Steven Wickstrom, WWII veteran Richard Tisch – Btry A 392nd Field Artillery; WWII veteran "Bud" Gahs – A/T Co. 222nd Infantry; Former 42nd Division Commander, MG Joseph Taluto, WWII veteran Richard Marowitz – HQ 222nd Infantry; Former 42nd Division Commander, BG Paul Genereux

Photo by SPC J.P. Lawrence

Major General Joseph J. Taluto (ret.), in his second year as the Chairman of the 42nd RDVF, was impressed by the continuing dedication of these veterans to the division. Previously he served as the Adjutant General of the New York Army National Guard, and led the 42nd through a long and challenging deployment to Iraq in 2005.

MG Taluto's feelings today about the growth and forward progress of the RDVF are unchanged from a year ago when he took charge of the organization. "The new Foundation membership will continue to build upon the legacy of the gallant men and women who have served, recognizing their valor, heroism and patriotism, and the sacrifices made by them and their families. "

After many great years of service several long standing members have stepped down from positions on the board and as officers. This is to be expected. To those who served we owe a debt of gratitude for keeping us going. Thankfully, we now have several new members who have accepted positions in the RDVF. New board members voted in at the annual in Albany were Jude Mulvey, Lon Peck, Michelle Hamilton and Paul Genereux. Paul was also voted in as Vice Chairman. In addition Patrick "Pat" Chaisson, another 42nd Vet, has stepped up to be our RDVF Historian. You will be enjoying articles written by Pat in each edition of the *Reveille*. I would like to thank these new board members and officers and all the others that give their time and effort to the RDVF.

Joe Taluto

NEW RDVF HISTORIAN SEEKS MEMBERS' ASSISTANCE

Hello, I am Patrick Chaisson, the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation's new historian. In my first column I want to introduce myself, thank my predecessors in this position for their hard work, and seek your help in preserving our foundation's history.

The RDVF is an active, energetic organization. We regularly educate and inform the public while memorializing the deeds of our fellow Rainbow veterans. These important activities rarely receive the attention they deserve – quite properly, we work to honor our fallen comrades and not for the publicity. All modesty aside, it's time to share your news with our entire membership nationwide. My first appeal as RDVF Historian is to our members who work with civic organizations, speak to school groups, or conduct parades and ceremonies. Please send me copies of your presentations, photographs, press clippings or just a quick note describing what you're doing in support of the RDVF.

I want to build an archive of the Foundation's accomplishments. Working with Suellen McDaniel, our *Rainbow Reveille* editor, I'll also help share your good work with the RDVF membership. You need not worry about grammar, spelling or writer's block; I used to teach high school English and can assist with all that.

My address is: Patrick Chaisson, RDVF Historian, 508 Glen Avenue, Scotia, NY 12302. Or email me at Patchais@aol.com.

The historian's column in the *Rainbow Reveille* newsletter will continue to feature reminiscences from World War II era Rainbow Division veterans. The stories of our nation's "Greatest Generation" remain inspiring, important links to our association's heritage. Keep them coming.

The 42nd Infantry Division will soon celebrate the 100th anniversary of its combat debut during World War I. Expect some exciting articles on the Rainbow's role in "The Great War".

It may be hard for some of us to believe, but next year the Rainbow will mark ten years since elements of our Division deployed to Iraq. I encourage our foundation's Iraq and Afghanistan vets to relate their personal accounts in this column.



Photo – Major (Ret.) Patrick Chaisson, Deputy G-1 HQ 42nd Division, Camp Doha, Kuwait, April 2005

The history of the Rainbow Division would not be complete without recognizing those who quietly served as part-time National Guard soldiers during the Cold War. These veterans helped keep their state and nation secure, so we will see their stories here as well.

The history of the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation is your history. I look forward to helping the membership share and preserve our rich tradition of service for future generations.

Photo – Major (Ret.) Patrick Chaisson,

A REQUEST TO WWII RAINBOW VETERANS.

My father was Melvin M. Singer of the 42nd Rainbow Division. He fought in Europe. I am currently writing a book on WWII veterans and would like to interview as many as possible and obtain photos for use in the book. I'll be in Florida all winter and am hoping to interview as many WWII vets as possible. Additionally if there are any gatherings or groups of WWII vets in one location, I may be able to travel to other states for the interviews.

Any help with assuring your voices are heard and memories of what these WWII vets have done for us is appreciated. Please contact me if you are available to be interviewed or can help find WWII veterans who may be interested. Thank you in advance!

**Andy Singer Andysinger@yahoo.com 978-270-2590 Cell
Son of Melvin M. Singer, Co. G, 222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Div**

A HISTORIC YEAR FOR THE NATIONAL AUXILIARY OF THE 42ND "RAINBOW" DIVISION

Shirley Kinsey, National Auxiliary President 2012 – 2013.

A description of the movement toward the first Auxiliary is found in the Introduction to the National Auxiliary History by Mrs. Bertha Rockhold and it applies as deeply today as it did then. This portion refers to families of "B Company" 117th Engineers, later changed to "E Company" -

"...The acquaintances formed by the families of our soldier boys and men during the drill hours at the Armory and out on field maneuvers had ripened into real friendships. The mutual ties and interests had bound all so closely that there seemed to be but one thing to do - to form an organization in which we might keep in closer touch with one another and by so doing learn from these contacts with all members, the movements and activities of our beloved Company, and thereby to be of greater aid and encouragement to them.

Therefore, on July 23, 1917, the day "B" Company Engineers left for American Lake, Washington, 80 postal cards were mailed to their families, inviting them to a meeting at 818 So. Kingsley Drive at 8:30 P.M., at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ackland who had so graciously opened their home for our first meeting, July 26, 1917...."

2013 has also been an historic year for the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation and for the National Auxiliary of the Foundation. As you may recall reading in the June *Reveille*, the Auxiliary, after meetings in which we considered the way to go forward in the most meaningful way, decided to petition the Foundation to allow us to merge with the Foundation. I, as National Auxiliary President, made the presentation to the RDVF Board of Trustees at our midyear meeting in early March 2013 in Norfolk. **At the recent Auxiliary meeting in Albany, New York, the members present voted on a resolution to merge with the Foundation as the Center for Family and Member Support**, and the resolution was passed unanimously. Since there will be no officers as such, Susan Taluto and Collette Wickstrom volunteered to Co-Chair the Center for Family and Member Support. A resolution was also proposed to retire the Auxiliary Flags to the 42nd Division Headquarters Museum so that they could be displayed.

All Auxiliary members who had lifetime memberships will be transferred to the Foundation, and current Auxiliary membership dues will continue to be \$5. and will be forwarded to Melanie K. Remple, RDVF Secretary. New memberships will be paid to the Foundation at the Foundation rates.

The Center for Family and Member Support will operate with subcommittees instead of national officers and all active Auxiliary chapters will continue to operate, under the new name of (RDVF) Center for Family and Member Support. Rather than a bulletin, we will have a section in each issue of the *Reveille*. Subcommittee appointments will be held at a later date.

As the Center for Family and Member Support, we will be involved in a number of functions such as fund raising efforts, a Sunshine program of sending cards as has been done in the Auxiliary, developing a recognition program for Rainbow families, including active, retired or veterans, and support of education and scholarships, keeping history of the 42nd including WWII and current members, among other things.

We look forward to accomplishing much in the future for our veterans and their families, and each of us is an important part of helping to do everything we can to show our ongoing support of the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation (RDVF). I believe we will be seeing a new growth in membership and involvement, including those of us who have been members for some time, or a relatively short time, we all can work together to achieve so much that needs to be done for the wonderful 42nd Rainbow Division veterans and their families.

We NEED your continued support! If you are interested in volunteering, taking an active role in the Center for Family and Member Support Committee or have questions, please contact –

**Susan Taluto floridagirlpbg@gmail.com 561 429 6493,
Collette Wickstrom Collette.wickstrom@hotmail.com
508 529 4652 or Linda Owen, LindaOwen77@aol.com**

I want to express sincere gratitude and thanks to all of those who have served in an official capacity in the National Auxiliary, for all of their years of devotion, hard work, and love for the Auxiliary, always there to support our veterans, whether it was their husband, father, son, grandfather, or other family member who served with the Rainbow Division. So many wonderful women who have attended the regional

chapter meetings or the national reunions, serving in whatever capacity they were called upon to do, have helped to keep the Foundation stronger, and added a lot of input and labor to the history of the great 42nd Division. **My personal thanks to Linda Owen, PNAP**, for standing in for me at the Albany Reunion in September, as I was unable to attend due to health problems. She did a wonderful job for the previous four years as President, and is due our thanks and appreciation for her labor of love for the Auxiliary and the Foundation.

Thanks also to Susan Taluto, who has served the past year as vice-president of the Auxiliary, and who will be co-chairing the Center for Family and Member Support with **Collette Wickstrom**. Both of their husbands have served as Commanding Generals for the 42nd Rainbow Division, and they both have much to offer in service to the Foundation. Thanks to both of you very special ladies for your expressed desire to serve the 42nd veterans and families.

To all of those ladies who have been members of the National Auxiliary for its many years, let us assure you that it was worth every effort you put into being a part of such a wonderful support group, and you can look forward to seeing your legacy go on and on.

As the last serving President of the National Auxiliary, let me say again what an honor it has been for me to serve you, and what a privilege to have followed in the footsteps of so many who served before me. I will always treasure this privilege, and I will also treasure the honor of having met and become acquainted with so many unforgettable heroes and their families.

With love always for the Rainbow Division, I will "Never Forget"!
Shirley Kinsey, National Auxiliary President, 2011 – 2013

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2013 RAINBOW SCHOLARS !

The following awards were determined by the Rainbow Scholarship Committee at the annual reunion at Albany, NY September 2013 -

- \$3,000. **Stillman Sawyer Award**
Jenna Marie Stigg, Manhattan KS
- \$3,000. **Ted Simonson Award**
Jordan Parry, Idaho Falls, ID
- \$2,000. **Duhascek Family Award**
Bryce Remple, Hutchinson, MN
- \$2,000. **Dee and Barbara Eberhart Award**
Makayla Foertsch, Algona, IA
- \$2,000. **222nd Infantry Award**
Jacob Yapple, Baldwinsville, NY
- \$2,000. **Ted Johnson Award**
Kelsey Fisher, Powell, OH
- \$1,500. **Kaiser Family Award**
Camille Couch, Idaho Falls, ID
- \$750. Jacob Koester, Omaha, NE
- \$750. Annie Kenny, Bernardsville, NJ
- \$750. Marissa Hernandez, New Hampton, NY

My name is Jenna Stigge

and I am a freshman at Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kansas. I want to thank you sincerely for the \$3,000 Stillman F. Sawyer Scholarship. This extremely generous award will be a big help with my college expenses. I am currently majoring in biology and playing softball for Ottawa University. This financial aid will assist me to concentrate on my studies as well as my athletic activities.

My grandfather, Norbert Stigge, and his brother, Edward Stigge were members of the Rainbow Division in February and March of 1945 in World War 2, both serving in 2d platoon, Company A of the 232nd Infantry Regiment. Growing up I spent a lot of time at my grandparents' house and a majority of that time I spent with my Grandpa outdoors or inside playing board games.



I always knew he fought in the war but my Grandma always said that he didn't like to talk about it so I never asked questions. He would occasionally bring up the topic of war and you knew to just listen carefully and hang on to every word because it didn't happen often. Once I was in middle school I became very interested in learning more about World War 2 and just history in general.

When I was in eighth grade my advanced English Class did a project on the Holocaust. We opened a small museum in our school that was open to the community. My group's exhibit was on women in the concentration camps. Some groups did their exhibits on Anne Frank, life before and after the holocaust. The final exhibit in our museum was how something similar to the Holocaust had recently occurred in Rwanda. From that class assignment I gained a good understanding of what the 42nd Division had fought for in World War 2 and how history can still repeat itself if we are not prepared to fight for justice and oppose evil. I am thankful to all who have served in our armed forces and who continue to serve, especially my sister's husband Andy Barger who is in the Air Force and has been deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan since he enlisted in 2001 right after the 9/11 terrorist attack. Thank you again to the RDVF, I will never forget your assistance to my college experience.

Picture: My grandfather, Norbert Stigge, myself, and my grandmother, Lorna Stigge in August of 2013 celebrating their 67th wedding anniversary.

From Norbert Stigge - It was gratifying news to me when I learned that a generous scholarship was awarded to my grand-daughter Jenna Stigge. Of course, being her grand-dad, I would be first to say that her high school achievement merited consideration both scholastically and for extra-curricular activities! But many thanks to the Rainbow Scholarship committee for this award. My brother (two years younger) and I, were replacements assigned to the 42nd after the Division (and a couple other Divisions) was almost 50% decimated by the January 6, 1945 Himmler offensive of the war. This bloodiest of conflict for both sides lasted till January 26 and my brother and I were assigned a few days later to Co. A, 232nd Infantry. Prior to that we had less than four months of basic training at Camp Hood, Texas. We got "on-the-job" training via the 42nd Division while "over there." Most of Feb '45 we were dug in at the south edge of Reipertswiller, France. On the final push of the war early in March, we headed north up the hill north of Reippertswiller, then on to Sarreguemines, Saar Louis, etc. and into Germany. Combat ended for me on March 28th and ended for my brother when he was wounded by an enemy bullet on April 5th.

EXCELSIOR COLLEGE Patriot Poll

What Services Should Colleges Offer Veterans?

Excelsior College <http://www.excelsior.edu> is a regionally accredited, nonprofit distance learning institution that focuses on removing obstacles to the educational goals of adult learners. Founded in 1971 and located in Albany, NY, Excelsior is a proven leader in the assessment and validation of student knowledge. It offers more efficient and affordable access to degree completion through multiple avenues: its own online courses and college-level proficiency examinations, and the acceptance in transfer of credit from other colleges and universities as well as recognized corporate and military training programs. Excelsior College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

In September 2013, Excelsior College released the results of its most recent Patriot Poll which was conducted nationwide among active duty military personnel and veterans for Excelsior by the Center for Research and Public Policy. The findings yielded insight into a host of veteran-related issues, including the types of services returning personnel are seeking from colleges.

According to the poll, 83.9 percent of all respondents believe it is "very important" or "somewhat important" that a college or university provides advice on the acceptance of credit earned through military training, exams, life experience, and college courses taken elsewhere. These results are not surprising; the acceptance of transfer credit and military training that has been evaluated by the American Council on Education (ACE) for college-level credit place veterans and active duty personnel closer to their educational goals and reduces the cost of a college degree.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.rainbowvets.org/excelsior-college-partnership>

A RAINBOW POW ACCOUNT

by Dr. Morton D. Brooks, Co. C, 242nd Infantry Regiment



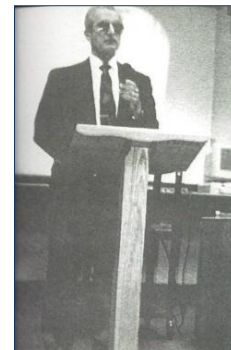
Upon reading David Willets' story in the September REVEILLE my memory was brought into focus to that day in January 1945. I was one of the twenty men selected to be in the front line foxholes that day. During the night we saw the tracer bullets and heard the shots ringing out. In the morning I moved out of the foxhole to the "CP" (Command Post) where Sgt. Todd and David Willets were manning positions. The picture of me standing on the left side of David in the tank trap which served as the CP came back as sharp as it could have been the same day. **While standing beside David I suddenly saw the two holes (entering and exit) appear in his helmet.** "You sure were

lucky." I said. Also feeling very fortunate myself. After a short while it became clear we would have to leave this location. Our communication was cut off because the lines to our field telephone were cut. Sgt. Todd asked if I could re-connect the field telephone and direct our artillery. When I said "yes" I was sent to do so. It meant following the wire back and attempting to re-connect at each cut in the wire for about 800 yards where it entered a pillbox at the southern end of the Maginot line. When I entered the pillbox the fellow there thought they were liberated. They had spent a very difficult night under fire. Another attempt to connect the phone failed. While attempting to decide what to do one of the men there (a Sgt.) said we have to surrender. I did not want to do that. **He indicated that we did not have a choice because when he looked out he saw a German Tiger Tank coming up the road. He indicated that it would just put its gun nozzle in the pillbox and kill us all.** As we marched out we could see that there was a machine gun emplacement across the road but facing west toward Hatten. We were marched across the road into a trench past the machine gun until things quieted down. Then we were marched back behind the lines to a farm house where we were put in a barn with many other American prisoners. A German officer interrogated a number of us. Upon giving name, rank and serial number I was not bothered but some others were. The officer knew the date we left the States, the date we landed at Marseille, the names of our officers. Their intelligence was very good. They were just trying to supplement it. **After two days we were marched further back to a railroad siding where we were packed into 40 X 8's (40 people or 8 horses) but we had at least 60 soldiers.** The trip to Stalag 9B took four to five days (southeast of Frankfurt). This camp was full of those captured in "The Bulge". Initially we were housed in a regular barracks with upper and lower bunks. The day after we arrived we learned the Commandant of the camp wanted to segregate the Jewish soldiers and house them in a separate barrack. When Hans Kasten (an American G.I. who served as the "Man of Confidence") the go-between for the German Command and the Americans because he spoke German fluently was told to have the Jewish soldiers step forward, he refused, telling the Commandant that we don't segregate in the American Army. The Commandant responded by hitting him with his rifle butt, knocking him to the ground. In the processing for receipt of the German prison dog tags (done by Americans) we were asked our religion. **When responding with the fact that only Name, Rank, and Serial No. were required we were told that six fellow soldiers would be shot if it was found that we did not tell the truth.** None of us wanted that. We were put in a segregated barrack. Once done and put in this barrack there was no significant difference between the rations or conditions. However, outside the barrack, during morning roll call, the guards would sometimes have the group stand outside in the freezing morning weather for a longer time. At the end of January (1945) we were told that 350 of us were being shipped out because of 'overcrowding' in the camp. 80 of us in satisfactory physical condition in the 'Jewish' barrack plus 270 additional G.I.'s (many of which they considered 'trouble makers') to make the group of 350. We were marched down to the R.R. siding and loaded into the 40 & 8's which were packed with about 75 of us and locked in. We were given a loaf of German blackbread to divide between six of us (for each group of six).

After four days of being locked in we arrived at a station with a sign 'BERGA'. We were then marched about a mile to the camp passing a barbed wire enclosure with political prisoners (blue and white striped outfits) and then up a hill to the barracks for us. In the morning we received the warm 'coffee' (chicory boiled in water). Then went out in the cold to identify ourselves by calling out our German 'dogtag' numbers. **We were then marched down to the mines and directed into assigned tunnels.** Inside we were given pneumatic drills (2 men to a drill) and directed to drill holes into the rock wall before us. When it was determined that enough holes were drilled a German explosive expert filled the holes with cloth-filled 'frankfurters' of explosive powder. We then exited the mine and the charges were exploded followed by our re-entering the mine shaft to shovel the rock into mining cars. These were then pushed out to dump into the river which ran alongside. **The overseer was a civilian with a very cruel streak. He carried a rubber hose and pick axe handle which he did not hesitate to use if he felt that we were not working hard enough.** We did what we were forced to do and so often experienced his wrath. We also figured ways to sabotage the situation which infuriated them. Upon returning from the mines after ten hours or more we received our meal of 'soup' which was turnip greens boiled in water and blackbread (6 men to a loaf) which we learned later was half sawdust. It did not take very long to recognize that the long hours and hard work in the mines were taking its toll. The men became weakened and ill. At 'roll call' in the freezing morning cold men began reporting ill. **Instead of arranging for a physician the Commandant determined that he would decide if a person was to go to work.** One day when one of the fellows stated he was feeling very ill he went up to him to examine him. At that point the man fainted falling to the ground. The Commandant called for a pail of water which he splashed on the man's face. When he didn't move he allowed him to be taken into the barrack. The only toilet facility we had was a slit trench outside between two barracks with a slender tree limb supported by two short tree limbs planted in the ground for the men to lean against or 'sit' on. There were no amenities. As diarrhea and dysentery were rampant it was a very difficult situation. These conditions took their toll psychologically. **Various possible escapes were considered but being in a barbed wire enclosure with guard towers and the SS barracks on one side of the enclosure plus lack of knowledge of the geography presented formidable deterrents.** One of the men (Goldberg) did manage to get away but was caught nearby in the town. The 2nd in command (Merz) was sent to bring him back. He did, but dead. Merz claimed he was trying to escape by running away but this was doubtful because he was shot in the back of the head (which had to be done very close to the head, particularly with a pistol.) Toward the end of March we were told we would be leaving on April 1st. I thought it was an April Fool's joke. We could hear cannon fire in the distance and felt our troops were getting close. **We were moved out on April 2nd to begin a three week march to nowhere – just going South as well as East and West depending on whether the Americans or Russians were getting closer.** This march took its toll on the men. There was a hay wagon on which fellows were 'thrown' if they could not walk. There were many who were suffocated by others thrown on top of them. Approximately two weeks into the march we passed political prisoners (in blue and white stripes) on both sides of the road that were shot through the back of the head. **Believing that could also be our end I convinced my buddy to try an escape. That night we did manage to get away into the woods.**

However, the next day when trying to take some vegetables from a farmer's porch we were caught. We were put in a jail for a day and then returned to the group. A week later when we were bedded down in a barn for the night we decided to not move when the guards wanted us to continue marching. Fortunately when we awakened we heard shots being fired and the guards took off. Upon looking out we saw the 11th Armored Division coming down the road. We were liberated. There were 140 of us there at that time. We did learn there were about 40 more found along the road.

Photos – Morton Brooks, October 1944; Dr. Morton Brooks speaking to a high school class about the Holocaust and his experiences as a POW. E-mail <morbro95@gmail.com> to contact Dr. Brooks.



WWII RAINBOW DEATHS REPORTED SINCE 15 AUGUST 2013

ALTNEU, Herb Co. A/T & I-242nd Infantry
ANDREWS, John A. Co. C-222nd Infantry
BARRISH, Morton M. Co. D-122 Med Bn.
BENDER, William L. "Bill" Co. K-222nd Infantry
BENSON, Warren Co. G-232nd Infantry
BOLTZ, Raymond P. Co. L-242nd Infantry
BULKLEY, Frank Co. F-232nd Infantry
BUZZEO, Daniel A. unit unreported
EDWARDS, Durward Co. E-242nd Infantry
FORD, Calvin A., Jr. Co. L-232nd Infantry
FREEMAN, Louis H. Co. C-142 Combat Engineers
GANSTER, Samuel E. Co. E-242nd Infantry
GOAD, Donald E. Jr. 42nd Quartermaster Co.
HOPKINS, Robert J. H3B-222nd Infantry
KOMMERS, Robert A. HQ-222nd Infantry
MARCHETTI, Fulvio "Phil" Co. D-242nd Infantry
O'REILEY, Patrick Co. D-232nd Infantry
ROSS, Alan Co. G-232 Infantry; 42nd MP Platoon
SCHMIDT, Glenn E. Co. A-242nd Infantry
SCHMITZ, Richard D. H1B-232nd Infantry
SCHUTZ, Albert HQ Btry-542nd Field Artillery
SPEHAR, William M. Co. D-222nd Infantry
STEAN, Ronald K. Co. B-242nd Infantry
SUHD, Melvin Co. H-232nd Infantry
TAYLOR, James I. H2B-222nd Infantry
THOMSON, Jamie unit unreported
VALLANCE, Norval H. "Pete" unit unreported
WITTMER, Raymond Co. C-242nd Infantry

Article and more photos by Col. Richard Goldenberg are found here -
<http://dmna.ny.gov/pressroom/?id=1379602913>

– New York Army
National Guardsmen
from Company C, 1st
Battalion, 105th
Infantry raise the U.S.
flag at ground zero
here following the
9/11 terror attacks on
September 14, 2001.



**9/11 Information and photos are sent by Paul Fanning,
 RDVF Memorials Officer**



photo left – Joe Taluto and Lee Ielpi; right - includes Lee Ielpi and Nancy Gamerman from the Tribute Center with Major Sean Flynn, WTC 9-11, Iraq Vet with the Rainbow Division's 69th Infantry and Afghan Vet with NY's other infantry unit, the 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry.

NEVER FORGET !!!

On December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor and other military installations on the Hawaiian island of Oahu were attacked by Japanese forces. Among those American military who were serving there on that day were a number of future Rainbow Division soldiers.

One of these was **Staff Sergeant Irwin W. Kranbeck.**



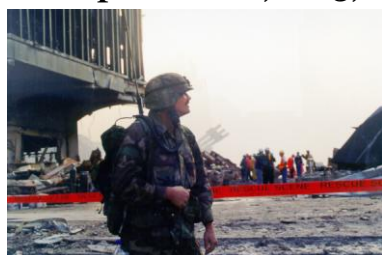
<http://www.25thida.org/pearlharbor.html>

"Available official documents show that at least three soldiers were decorated by the 25th Division for bravery during the attack. As depicted in the movie From Here to Eternity by the actor Burt Lancaster, Technical Sergeant William O. Gower, 27th Infantry took a machine gun and ammunition to the roof of the 27th Infantry quadrangle and engaged strafing aircraft,

at first cradling it in his left arm, then mounting it on a tripod. He remained on the roof throughout the attack. Another 27th Infantry soldier, Corporal Edmond F. Lynagh, also mounted a machine gun and although wounded remained to direct his squad in firing at the Japanese aircraft until the attack was over. **Staff Sergeant Irwin W. Krambeck, 8th Field Artillery Battalion standing in the open in the Division Artillery quadrangle took the enemy aircraft under fire with a Springfield rifle. All three received the Purple Heart which at that time was awarded for meritorious acts as well as for wounds."**

Sergeant Kranbeck later served as "cadre" in the 42nd Division at Camp Gruber, OK, and in the ETO, in Btry A, 232d Field Artillery as Forward Observer with Company B, 232nd Infantry. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Silver Star for gallantry in action near Reipertswiller, France, on 15 March 1945.

On September 11, 2013, the 9/11 Tribute Center



Company C, 1st Battalion, 105th Infantry, surveys ground zero devastation Sept. 13, 2001, two days after the 9/11 terror attacks.

released the exhibit, **"The National Guard: Stories of September 11th told by those who were there"** as part of the commemoration of the 12th anniversary of the terror attacks of September 11th.

New York Army National Guard
 Spc. Christian Miller from

**In Honor and
 Memory of
 New York Air
 National
 Guard Staff
 Sgt. Todd
 "TJ"
 Lobraico, Jr.**



DANBURY, CT—Lt. Col. Robert "Bob" Tilli, Senior Chaplain, 105th Airlift Wing delivers remarks at the wake of New York Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Todd "TJ" Lobraico at the Western Connecticut State University-gymnasium here on Thursday, Sept. 12. Lobraico was killed in action in Afghanistan on Sept. 5. Photo NYNG

LATHAM, NY (09/06/2013) A New York Air National Guard member assigned to the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh died in Afghanistan on Thursday, Sept. 5, the Department of Defense announced today.

Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico Jr. died of wounds sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire near Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

Lobraico comes from an Air National Guard Family. His father, Master Sgt. Todd Lobriaco, is a member of the 105th Security Forces Squadron and his mother, Major Linda Rohatsch, commands the 105th Medical Group. Lobraico's awards include the Meritorious Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Air Force Training Ribbon, and the New York State Humane Service Medal. **Lobraico is the first member of the New York Air National Guard to die in a combat zone since Sept. 11, 2001.**

**From Information sent by Eric Durr, Director,
 DMNA/National Guard Joint Force HQ PAO**

**RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS FOUNDATION,
CONTRIBUTIONS TO FOUNDATION August 16, 2013 – October 15, 2013**

SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND Pacific NW Chapter Auxiliary, 100.00;

FOUNDATION OPERATING FUND Melanie Remple and Marlene Krein, 100.00 – for Ivan Wallace; Melanie Remple and Marlene Krein, 100.00 – for Rube Evanoff; Melanie Remple and Marlene Krein, 100.00 – for Sandy Lebman; John Parker, 50.00 – for Howard J. Parker.

SCHOLARSHIP OPERATING FUND Pacific NW Chapter Auxiliary, 100.00; Leon and Colleen Peck Family Fund, 5,000.00.

If you would like to make a contribution, please send your gift to the RDVF Treasurer, Check payable to RDVF and mailed to:

BENJAMIN PETTUS 640 NE Lake Pointe Dr. Lee's Summit, MO 64064-1367

Memorial gifts will be acknowledged personally and also in the next issue of REVEILLE. If you would like an acknowledgement of your gift to be sent to the family of the person whom you are honoring, please include their name and address when you send your contribution.

All are gratefully received and acknowledged. **We may also support Rainbow online at <rainbowvets.org>.**

In the September REVEILLE we incorrectly listed the WWII unit of **Hilbert and Howard Margol** as Btry B, 542nd Field Artillery Battalion when describing the Sunday August 11 event at Turner Field by the Atlanta Braves - the "Sprit of '45 Day" Hometown heroes. **Their correct unit was Btry B, 392nd Field Artillery Bn.** **Hilbert wrote:** Our appearance was shown on Fox SportsTV during the game, both on the field and an interview at our seats, and on Fox TV that night on the 10 and 11pm news programs. As we entered the field, over 30,000 fans cheered loudly until we returned to our seats. We enjoyed a great but humbling feeling. In addition to many past speaking engagements, and some future speaking dates, this event has generated some additional ones--a senior high school history class, a Baptist church and a United Methodist church. At every appearance, we proudly mention our participation in the 42nd Rainbow Division."

All three videos may be viewed online here –

Video 1 http://youtu.be/InfutnF2_Vk - Video 2 <http://youtu.be/fDvTJV1Xtsg> - Video 3 <http://youtu.be/P9XLG43cGFI>

NOTICE TO ALL RDVF MEMBERS – At the national reunion in Albany NY in September the RDVF Board of Trustees voted to increase annual RDVF dues to \$25. This will take effect January 1, 2014. All dues received before this date will be honored at the previous rate of \$10.00 per year.

**For all options of dues payments, please visit our <rainbowvets.org> website
or contact the RDVF Treasurer, Ben Pettus or RDVF Secretary, Melanie Remple
Contact information on page 2 of this issue.**

**DATE SET for Spring Reunion of the EASTERN REGION CHAPTER – April 23-24-25, 2014
to be held at the beautiful Port-O-Call Hotel, Ocean City, NJ.
For more information please call Harold Melinek at 732-363-0845**

To sign up for **The MacArthur Memorial E-Newsletter** for monthly updates on special events, educational activities, new exhibits, volunteer opportunities and more, go to -

http://www.macarthurmemorial.org/m_enewsletter_sign_up.asp